

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-05 JUSE-00

NSC-05 OMB-01 SY-04 TRSE-00 L-01 AID-05 RSC-01 DRC-01

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R 152156Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2849

S E C R E T QUITO 6803

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, EC

SUBJ: NARCOTICS: COUNTRY PROBLEM ASSESSMENT PAPERS

REF: STATE 220275

1. THE MISSION HAS THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT
COUNTRY PROBLEM ASSESSMENT PAPER.

2. RE PARA 2 REFTTEL: ECUADOR IS NOT "A LEADING SOURCE OF
HEROIN". THERE HAS APPEARED TO BE SOME OPIUM CULTIVATION
AND SOME PROCESSING OF HEROIN. ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO
ACCURATE FIGURE, PROBABLY NO MORE THAN 25 KILOS ARE PROCESSED
MONTHLY IN THIS COUNTRY. ECUADOR, IN COMMON WITH OTHER
LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, IS ALSO USED AS A TRANSSHIPMENT
POINT. AS FOR COCA, MOST COCA LEAVES ENTER FROM OUTSIDE
ECUADOR. IT IS NOT PRODUCED DOMESTICALLY AS A CASH CROP.

3. WITH RESPECT TO THE "IMPUNITY" WITH WHICH TRAFFICKERS
OPERATE IT APPEARS TO US THAT THIS FACTOR IS DECREASING
NOTABLY. THE GOE HAS BECOME CONSIDERABLY MORE INTERESTED
IN THE PROBLEM, IS STARTING TO TAKE EFFECTIVE COUNTERMEASURES,
AND HAS INCREASED ITS COOPERATION WITH US AGENCIES TO A
SIGNIFICANT EXTENT.

4. IF CORRUPTION APPEARS TO BE THE REMAINING LARGEST

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INHIBITING FORCE TO EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF

NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING -- AND THIS IS BY NO MEANS CERTAIN -- IT IS NOT AT ALL CLEAR, AS APPRAISED IN THE ASSESSMENT, THAT PROGRESS ON THE NARCOTICS FRONT WILL BE MADE ONLY BY REVAMPING THE POLICE FORCE.

5. IN GENERAL, REFTEL MAKES A REASONABLE ASSESSMENT OF CONDITIONS IN ECUADOR. NEVERTHELESS, IT OVERSTATES ANY FACTORS. THE ASSESSMENT SHOULD SUPPORT A CHANGE OF PRIORITIES FOR POLICE NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT AS BEING A MAJOR FACTOR FOR IMPROVED NARCOTICS CONTROL. A REORGANIZATION ALONE WILL NOT DO IT.

6. IF THE DEPARTMENT, OR ANY OTHER WASHINGTON AGENCY, HAS INFORMATION DIFFERENT FROM THAT ASSESSED IN PARA 2, ABOVE, THE EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE BEING SO APPRISED.
BREWSTER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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